



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

ILLINOIS MAN GETS 30 YEARS FOR CHILD SEX CRIMES, PORN

Pleads guilty to having sex with 5-year-old girl to post photos on Internet

CHICAGO — A South Elgin man pleaded guilty Friday, and received a 30-year prison sentence, for taking explicit photos of him having sex with a 5-year-old girl in the back of a van. He also pleaded guilty to intending to distribute these images on the Internet, following an investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Edward Mathieu, 45, was sentenced in U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois by Judge Robert W. Gettleman to 30 years in prison after being charged by indictment with multiple counts of inducing a minor to engage in sexually explicit conduct for the purpose of producing visual depictions of such conduct, advertising visual depictions of minors engaging in sexually explicit conduct, and possessing child pornography. Mathieu also faces separate state criminal proceedings in Kane County in connection with his assault of the 5-year-old girl.

According to the plea agreement, Mathieu admitted to luring the victim into a van owned by his employer on at least two occasions and persuading her to engage in sexually explicit conduct for the purpose of producing digital images to distribute over the Internet. Mathieu produced these images distribute them to members of “pre-teen hard core” child pornography groups on the Internet in exchange for additional child pornography images. ICE special agents seized Mathieu’s laptop computer, which was found to contain about 200 images of child pornography.

The case against Mathieu emerged in August 2004 after ICE received a tip from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) that an individual had uploaded child pornography images on a Yahoo! User group. A subsequent investigation by ICE and the Elgin Police Department identified Mathieu.

This case was successfully prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Mark E. Schneider.

“We’ve made it an agency high priority to stop these sexual predators from abusing and exploiting our children,” said Elissa A. Brown, special agent-in-charge of ICE investigations in Chicago. “ICE is committed to protecting those who cannot protect themselves, and the victims of child sexual predators top that list.”

This case falls under ICE’s nationwide initiative known as [Operation Predator](#). Operation Predator protects our children from sexual predators, including those who travel across continents to have sex with minors. Internet child pornographers and criminal alien sex offenders and child traffickers are also included under Operation Predator. Since the initiative was launched in July of 2003, there have been more than 6,400 individuals arrested nationwide, including more than 250 in Illinois.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.